

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 101005Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8913

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4332

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN GOVT MEDIA

REF: ADDIS 4050

WE HAVE INCREASINGLY FIRM REPORTS THAT REACTION IS SETTING IN
WITHIN GOVT AND DIRG AGAINST FREE-WHEELING AND DESTRUCTIVE ACTIVITIE
S
OF GOVT MEDIA. BELIEVE BLUNT PROTEST ALONG LINES DRAFT LETTER TO
TEFERI CONTAINED REFTTEL, IF APPROVED AND DELIVERED SOON, WOULD
SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN HANDS OF MODERATES WHO DESIRE BETTER
CONTROL OVER LEFTISTS IN MEDIA.

DURING PAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE ACCUMULATED LARGE NUMBER OF PRI-
VATE COMMENTS BY ETHIOPIANS, AS WELL AS INTEL REPORTS, SHOWING
RISING OPPOSITION TO FREE-WHEELING LEFTIST MEDIA. APPARENTLY, A
COMBINATION OF LEFTISTS INCLUDING 14-MAN "POLITBUREAU" WERE GIVEN
MANDATE TO PREPARE GROUND FOR "RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS OF MASSES" AND
FOR FORMATION OF MASS ORGANIZATIONS THAT WOULD EVENTUALLY FORM
VAVIS FOR ONE-PARTY STRUCTURE. PREDICTABLY, THESE LEFTISTS (SOME
OF WHOM ARE NOW RUMORED TO BE INSTIGATED BY SOVS), ARE OVER-
PLAYING THEIR HANDS, AND MODERATES IN DIRG, IN ARMED FORCES, AND
IN GOVT WILL, WE BELIEVE, SOON REACT. WE HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT
DIRG AND ARMED FORCES, BEING BASICALLY AUTHORITARIAN, CANNOT ALLOW
MASS ORGANIZATIONS, OR ANY GROUP OF RADICALS, TO TAKE OVER
POLICY-MAKING OR DECISION-MAKING.

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SPECIFICALLY, WE NOW HAVE CASES OF (A) REFUSAL OF MEDIA TO

PRINT LETTER FROM ZAMBIAN AMB DESPITE DIRECT ORDER FROM DIRG
(ZAMBIA IS CONSIDERED CLOSE FRIEND OF ETHIOPIA, AND AMB'S
LETTER REBUTS PREVIOUS DEROGATORY STATEMENTS AGAINST ZAMBIA IN
VO MEDIA) AND (B) ASTONISHING ATTACK ON SUDAN (ADDIS 4317)
JUST AFTER FONMIN'S VISIT TO KHARTOUM HAD APPARENTLY CALMED
ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. WE SURMISE THAT LATTER, WHICH
IS CONTINUED IN EDITORIAL TODAY, COULD NOT HAVE HAD APPROVAL OF
THOSE CONCERNED WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS, WHO MUST BE APPALLED AT
BOTH TIMING AND CONTENT.

THUS LEFTIST MEDIA OPERATORS HAVE GONE FAR BEYOND TRYING TO
INFLUENCE INTERNAL ATTITUDES, AND ARE ENCROACHING ON, AND TRYING TO
MAKE, FOREIGN POLICY. FOR US TO PROTEST NOW, IN LETTER TO TEFERI,
WOULD BRING TO HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION FURTHER DAMAGE BEING DONE TO
RELATIONS WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY, THE U.S. BELIEVE LETTER IS DE-
SIRABLE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SECY VISITS ETHIOPIA OR NOT.
ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT OF TEXT OF LETTER TO
TEFERI.
HUMMEL

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NNN

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